

THIS DISPATCH FOUNDED 1850.  
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## AWOKE TO FIND BED IN FLAMES

Nurse and Infant Have  
Narrow Escape In Fire  
At Residence.

## BLAZE STARTED BY SPARK FROM GRATE

Mrs. Acuf Fought Flames Until  
They Got Beyond Her and  
Then Turned In Alarm.  
Excitement in Fash-  
ionable Quar-  
ter.

Fire which completely wrecked two rooms and badly damaged a third on the second story of the residence of Mrs. Emanuel Millhiser, No. 220 West Franklin Street, about 9:30 o'clock last night, stirred the fashionable residential quarter to a high pitch of excitement, which was intensified by the fact that a nurse and a year-old infant were asleep in the room in which the blaze started, and that both of them might have met death in the flames and smoke had it not been for the timely awakening of the nurse, Mrs. Kahn, of Detroit.

The nurse was asleep on one bed in the room and the infant was lying asleep on the other. The other occupants of the house, all women, were in the sitting-room below Mrs. Kahn. Suddenly started up to find her bed in flames, with the fire gradually spreading over the room. The nurse bounded from the bed, and running out in the hall, screamed "Fire! Fire!" at the top of her voice.

**Narrow Escape.**  
Hearing the screams Mrs. Acuf, who was in the lower part of the house, hurried upstairs, where she found the room ablaze, with the child still sleeping. She rushed into the room, and, grabbing up the baby, gave it to the trembling nurse, and then proceeded to get the infant out of the flames. Pulling a mattress from one of the beds, Mrs. Acuf attempted to stifle the flames, but they soon got beyond her. Turning to make her escape through the door by which she had entered, she found all exits cut off, and was forced to dash through the blaze and out of a rear door. Mrs. Acuf rescued her own child upstairs and then ran out to the nearest fire alarm box and turned in the alarm.

Meanwhile the baby had been taken to the residence of Mr. Clarence Millhiser nearby, and Mr. Millhiser at once went to find a helping hand.

He attempted to go into one of the burning rooms, and came very near not being able to get out again. Overcome by the dense smoke, he was forced to lie down on the floor to get a breath of fresh air, after which he was able to fight his way through the smoke.

Engine company No. 2, responded to the alarm. Five minutes' delay would have been disastrous for the child, who had been formed a blue, through which the fire was eating its way rapidly. As the fire was eating its way through the partition, the fire department had the greatest difficulty in putting out the blaze without wrecking the house. The two back rooms were completely burned out, and a third was badly damaged by the combined action of flames and water.

The furniture was destroyed, and much injury was done to the second story hallway and to the flooring of the rooms above. Axes had to be resorted to before the further progress of the fire could be stopped, and everything that was not wrecked was so cut and charred that the damage will amount to a considerable sum—a thousand dollars or more.

**Caught From Grate.**  
The most plausible theory as to the cause of the blaze is that the bed had been caught from a spark from a coal fire burning in the grate. When the nurse awoke she found the bed ablaze, and there seems to have been no other way in which the fire could have originated.

The two engine companies did excellent work. The house belonged to Mrs. C. P. Stokes, and is fully insured.

**YOUNG MEN FIGHT;  
ONE STABBED TO DEATH**  
[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
WILSON, N. C., February 9.—As the result of a fight at Lenoir, one young man was killed and two others were injured. One of the young men, one Benbow, died this afternoon from wounds. Mason, who did the fatal cutting, has been arrested and is in jail.

The trouble grew out of a former difficulty.

**SHIP WITH 117 IMMIGRANTS  
ARRIVES AT CHARLESTON**  
CHARLESTON, S. C., February 9.—The steamship Witikind, from Bremen, with one hundred and seventeen immigrants, brought by the South Carolina Immigration Bureau, arrived here today.

**CHATHAM PUTS PRICE  
ON CRIMINAL'S HEAD**  
CHATHAM, VA., February 9.—The Town Council today offered two hundred and fifty dollars reward for the arrest and conviction of the party who attempted to chloroform Miss Cassie and Kate Yeatts on last Monday night.

**MAILS ARE BARRED TO  
YELLOW NEWSPAPERS**  
OTTAWA, ONT., Feb. 9.—The postmaster-general has been asked to deny the use of the mails to a local paper which printed the details of Thursday's evidence in the Thaw trial in New York. The postmaster-general said that the law was clear on the point and he would see that it was enforced.

**FLAMES PLAY HAVOC WITH  
TWENTY-FIVE PIANOS**  
CLEVELAND, TENN., Feb. 9.—The music room and a section of the dormitory of the Centenary Female College were destroyed by fire today. All students escaped. Twenty-five pianos were burned. The loss is about \$75,000.

## NO DIFFICULTY WITH JAPANESE

President and Delegation  
from 'Frisco Reach  
Understanding.

## DETAILS NOT AGREED UPON

Mayor Schmitz, in Interview,  
Says the Meeting Was Friendly,  
But That No Definite Agree-  
ment Was Reached—To  
Meet Again on  
Monday.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 9.—President Roosevelt and the authorities of San Francisco today reached the mutual understanding that the California-Japanese school question can be adjusted without danger of any serious difficulty with Japan. The details of the adjustment are not agreed upon. To arrange them other conferences are to be held, the next to take place Monday. It was authoritatively stated to-night that the one accomplishment of today's conference was a mutual understanding that a settlement could be reached which would be satisfactory, and which would leave no ground for trouble-making complaint by Japan.

The California delegation came to Washington, it is stated, with nothing in the nature of an ultimatum, but rather open to the consideration of any basis of settlement which the administration might propose.

The conference took place at the White House. It was attended by President Roosevelt and Secretary Root, representing the administration, and by Mayor E. E. Schmitz, the members of the board of education, the superintendent of schools and the assistant city attorney of San Francisco, representing the educational interests of the city.

**Schmitz's Statement.**  
Speaking of the conference, Mayor Schmitz said: "Nothing has been decided on and no proposition is pending. Nothing will be settled, if it is settled at all, until Monday or Tuesday, when another conference will be held, by which time I think a decision will be reached. The delegation and the President, each, presented their side of the case. The meeting was entirely friendly, but I am not prepared to say whether the result is satisfactory, nor am I prepared to say it was unsatisfactory. Between now and the time of the next conference, which I think will be Monday, our delegation will prepare an outline of its case. We are prepared to receive and consider proposals from the President and the Secretary of Education, or to make proposals. We have agreed that nothing regarding the details of the meeting are to be discussed with the newspapers, and we have no further statement to make."

No statement as to the result of the conference was obtainable at the White House. It was said there that the President would have absolutely nothing to say on the subject for publication and that the San Francisco delegation had agreed not to discuss the subject in a public way.

## SHOT PHYSICIAN AND THEN HERSELF

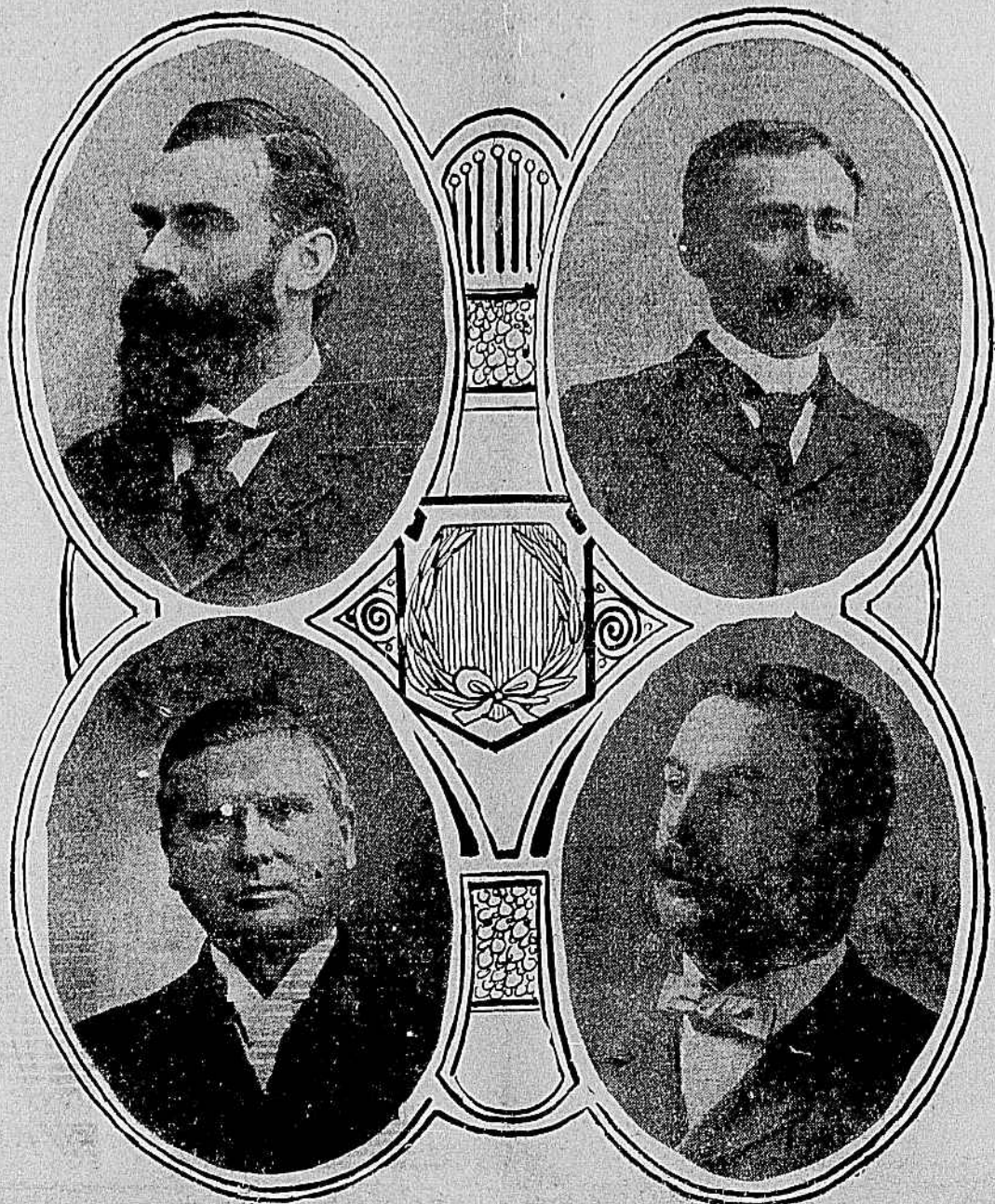
Woman Kills Man She Loves.  
Jealousy Was the  
Cause.

KANSAS CITY, MO., February 9.—Dr. Hyerett H. Merwin, thirty-eight years old, who had spent several years on British steamships as a surgeon, and Miss Maud Slater, aged twenty-three, a patient of the doctor's, were found dead in Merwin's office in the Hall Building today, and all available evidence points to the theory that the girl shot and killed the physician and then committed suicide as the result of insane jealousy. Each had been shot through the head, and a pistol was found near the extended right hand of the girl.

The doors of the office were locked, and neighboring tenants of the building, who heard the sound of shots in Dr. Merwin's office, were obliged to force an entrance to his apartments. The aged parents of the girl said that she was a patient of Dr. Merwin, and that she had announced before she left home today that she intended to go to the doctor's office for treatment.

It is stated that Dr. Merwin had expressed annoyance because Miss Slater frequently wrote him letters, telephoned to him and in other ways thrust her attentions upon him. Dr. Merwin was treasurer of a Kansas City homeopathic college, and had an extensive practice.

## PROMINENT POLITICIANS WHO MAY ASPIRE TO SUCCEED MR. RIXEY IN CONGRESS



HON. JOHN F. RYAN. JUDGE C. E. NICOL. COLONEL GEORGE S. SHACKELFORD. COLONEL R. E. LEE, JR.

## LYNCHBURG MAY HAVE BIG STRIKE

Firemen Ask for Increase in Pay  
and Mr. White Sounds  
Alarm.

**WILL NOT BE COERCED**  
Council Takes Stand That Big  
Stick Will Not Do Any  
Good.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
LYNCHBURG, VA., February 9.—A mild sensation was sprung at the adjourned meeting of the Common Council this afternoon when Mr. A. S. White, of the board of fire commissioners, appeared before the body and stated that the board was facing the probability of a strike among the men in the department because the members of the department feared they were not going to receive consideration for their request for an increase of wages. Mr. White stated that it was understood that the men at one of the fire stations have been holding meetings at the different stations. He asked that the department be given an additional \$4,500 in the appropriation for the department, in order that the pay of the firemen might be increased.

**Goes to Committee.**  
Mr. Blackford offered a resolution providing for the amount asked for, but after a discussion a substitute offered by Mr. Goodman that the request be referred to the Finance Committee for a fuller investigation and report prevailed.

The Finance Committee was instructed to ascertain the pay of the firemen in other Virginia cities, and if the pay here is not as large as in other cities that it should be increased.

The Council, however, wanted it understood that it did not intend to do anything in the matter, and Mr. White assured the body that he did not believe the firemen intended it in that way.

## SHOOT AT RABBIT, KILLS YOUNG MAN

Henry Wood, Who Accidentally  
Killed Clarence Sowers, Is  
Raving Maniac.

**YANCEY GETS FIVE YEARS**  
Man Who Stabbed Another to  
Death for Throwing Coffee on  
Him Convicted.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
CHRISTIANBURG, VA., February 9.—A fearful accident occurred here this evening when Henry Wood shot and instantly killed Clarence Sowers. They were out hunting with another man named Harry Tibbs, and had tracked a rabbit to a fodder-shed, and young Sowers kicked it out, when Tibbs and Wood fired, but in some innumerable way the entire load from Wood's gun was discharged into the back of Sowers' head, killing him almost instantly. Sowers was only sixteen years of age, while Wood is about twenty-five, and all parties are white and live here.

Wood is almost crazy with grief, and raves like a madman, while the parents of the dead boy are frantic. The shotgun was very easy on trigger, and Wood cannot tell exactly how the accident happened.

Court adjourned here today until Monday, after being in session since the 5th. The jury found Lee Yancey guilty of voluntary manslaughter to-day, and gave him five years in the penitentiary.

Yancey and another negro named Spady were drinking near Big Tunnel on the 13th, and became abusive to each other, which resulted in Spady's throwing some hot coffee on Yancey, and after the latter washed it off he went to the lodging car and stabbed Spady five times with his pocket knife, which resulted in instant death.

## LADY COOK TALKS WITH PRESIDENT

Urges Him to Support Woman's  
Suffrage Move-  
ment.

**HIS REPLY NOT DISCLOSED**  
Said He Did Not See That  
Voting Would Do Any Good.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 9.—Lady Cook, of England (formerly Miss Tennessee Clavin), had an audience to-day with President Roosevelt, making a plea to the President for his support of the movement to give suffrage to women. She declined to say what reply Mr. Roosevelt had made to her representations.

Olivia Logan accompanied Lady Cook to the White House, and will accompany her when the latter returns to England. The two ladies will make an effort to get a hearing before a congressional committee in behalf of woman's suffrage before they sail.

"My interviewing with the President was a most charming one, and I am perfectly satisfied as to the results. I can understand now his wonderful popularity with the people. I feel that I have been amply repaid for my trip to America," declared Lady Cook, in discussing her conference at the White House to-day with President Roosevelt concerning the suffrage question.

The interview between the President and Lady Cook covered a broad range of subjects, in which the President is interested, such as marriage and divorce, the perpetration of the race and kindred questions. Incidentally, the President took occasion to speak in the highest terms of woman's suffrage.

## RIXEY'S SEAT IS DESIRED BY MANY

Politicians Are Already  
Named Who Will Make  
Race for Congress.

## TEN CANDIDATES ARE IN THE FIELD

Election Will Probably Not Be  
Held Until November, When  
the Vacancy Will Be  
Filled in Primary.  
Warm Fight  
Expected.

BY WALTER EDWARD HARRIS.  
WASHINGTON, D. C., February 9.—There is going to be a warm fight for the seat made vacant by the death of Mr. Rixey.

When it became known that he was too ill to attend this session of Congress one or two men in the district let it be known that they had congressional aspirations, although none of them would announce his candidacy.

It is believed that Alexandria, Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William and Orange will each have a candidate in the field. The entries will probably be the following to start with: Colonel Robert E. Lee, Jr., of Fairfax; C. C. Carlyn, of Alexandria; Judge E. C. Nicol, of Prince William; Colonel George Shackelford, of Orange, and Hon. John F. Ryan, of Loudoun.

**Mr. Ryan.**  
Mr. Ryan was formerly Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates. He has been more successful than the average Virginia public man in avoiding espousing the side of either of the two wings of the Democratic party in Virginia, and would draw strength from both as represented in the district.

He is thoroughly familiar with legislative procedure and with the duties of a Representative. Besides being a man of character and prominence in the district, he would carry Loudoun by a large majority, it is claimed, and would probably carry Fauquier, unless that county should have a candidate.

**Colonel Shackelford.**  
Colonel Shackelford, who is a member of the State Senate in addition to being a lawyer of reputation and ability, is an exceedingly shrewd politician, as demonstrated by the manner in which he has built up the party in Orange. He has a wide acquaintance throughout the district, which is a valuable asset.

**Judge Nicol.**  
Judge Nicol is one of the ablest circuit judges in the State, and he, too, has a wide acquaintance in all the counties composing the Eighth. He has back of him some excellent workers, who know how to put up an effective fight. His candidacy is regarded as certain, as he is understood to have said long ago that he should aspire to Congress next time.

**Mr. Carlyn.**  
C. C. Carlyn is one of the most prominent members of the bar of Alexandria, and is regarded as a lawyer of much ability, whose reputation is growing all the time. A friend said to-day he doubted the wisdom of Mr. Carlyn's making the race, just at a time when the future held so much promise in a material way.

He will command a heavy vote through the district it is believed.

**Robert E. Lee.**  
Close friends of Colonel Lee say he has long entertained a desire to step from the State to the National Legislature. He has represented Fairfax County in the House of Delegates for several years, but recently announced that he would not stand for re-election. It is believed he will make a strong race for the nomination, with good chances of winning first prize. There is said to be no doubt of the fact that Colonel Lee will be a candidate.

His father, General Lee, "Rooney" Lee, represented the district in Congress.

**Judge White.**  
There are still other names mentioned (Continued on Fifth Page.)

## THAW'S COUNSEL ARE CONFIDENT

Say That the Testimony  
So Far Is Entirely  
Satisfactory.

## "AN ACQUITTAL WILL BE HIS"

This Is What Delmas Says and  
Thaw's Other Lawyers Agree.  
Prisoner's Will Is to Play  
Important Part, Show-  
ing He Feared  
White.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)  
NEW YORK, February 9.—"I would rather go to the electric chair than have had Evelyn tell that awful story."

This was the almost frantic declaration of Harry K. Thaw to one of his keepers in the Tombs prison when awakened to-day to realize that his young wife was to resume the witness stand again in his defense.

"I did not want her to tell that story. Wasn't it terrible?" Thaw exclaimed. "I did my best to stop it, but she would do it."

Then Thaw was silent for a time, and when he recovered his composure he turned to his keeper again.

"I would rather have gone to the electric chair than have had her do it," he added.

**NEW YORK, February 9.**—Thaw's counsel expect acquittal, and give their reasons.

By Delmas St. Delmas: "Could not wish for more. I am confident that the men of this jury will forever stamp such characters as White with their condemnation, and in so doing will exonerate Harry Thaw. He did as any one would have done after learning the awful story. An acquittal, and a speedy one, will be his."

By John B. Glendon: "Everything is fine. We are all pleased, and look forward to the verdict. No jury will convict when we have shown such a case."

By Henry W. McPike: "Why, if that were a daughter of mine, and had been victimized by such a headstrong man, I should be glad to stand a shotgun and blow him to pieces. I say this simply from the point of view of a man, and not as an attorney. In this case, I do not believe that there are twelve men in this whole land of ours that would convict a man who acted as Thaw did. He is most assuredly acted as the protector of the woman he loved. It is to the credit of our young manhood that such a case should be so easily avenged."

By A. R. Penbody: "There is no doubt that we have made a case that has surprised the people, and has shown sufficient provocation for Thaw's actions. The jury will show that they are not afraid of a White, and that he had provided for protection in event of death at White's hands. No jury will convict a man who acted as Thaw did, and who heard the testimony. We are more than satisfied."

By Dan O. Reilly: "Nothing but acquittal in sight. You know how the jury will stand for Delmas (the word of business that White was in Thaw is already justified); but that is the thing that will seal their fate."

**NEW YORK, February 9.**—Doubt and confusion as to what to do next in the case of Harry Thaw when the trial is resumed before Justice Fitzgerald in the criminal branch of the Supreme Court on Monday morning. When court adjourned Friday it was the intention of Mr. Delmas, who is now in absolute command of the defense, again to place Mrs. Evelyn Nesbit Thaw on the stand to continue the narration of the story upon which the prisoner's life depends.

District Attorney Jerome had dramatically protested against any further "dramatization of the deed." Just before the Friday adjournment was taken, and had been upheld by Justice Fitzgerald in his contention that the course to be pursued in the case should be left before "the loose tattle of the Tenderloin" should be spread upon the records.

The district attorney's reference was to the question of whether or not to put Mrs. Thaw on the stand to tell the story of her husband's conduct, and her husband had discussed together "the fate of other girls at the hands of Stanford White."

The court's ruling that the insanity of the defendant had not been established, and that the bringing in of further details of his wife's testimony may result in a temporary change in the line of attack, has been a source of great concern to the defense. Monday depends greatly upon the attitude of District Attorney Jerome, who declared he could have offered legitimate objections to Mrs. Thaw's testimony at the time she was put on the stand, and that the alleged insanity of the defendant had not been established; but had refrained from doing so because of the fact that he knew the testimony as to the revelations to Harry Thaw would come out some time.

**Jerome's Protest.**  
The district attorney yesterday, with a decided display of feeling, protested that "these aspersions of the dead have gone far enough," until competent evidence be adduced to show the mental effect of his wife's story, together with what he heard from other sources, had upon his mind, which the defense had claimed was already weak, and further affected by the stress of real or supposed wrong.

If Mr. Jerome persists on Monday morning in his objections to the line of examination indicated by Mr. Delmas's question as to a story concerning young